

The Yuma County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission met in a regular session on November 13, 2019. The meeting was held at the Yuma County Public Works Training Room, 4343 S. Avenue 5 ½ E, Yuma, Arizona.

CALL TO ORDER: At 5:35 P.M., Commissioner Cavanaugh convened the Yuma County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission in open session.

Commissioner present were: Barbara Cavanaugh, Louie Galaviz, Tim Gilliland, Louie Gradias, Althea Evans, and Gladys Anaya. Commissioners Linda Elliot, Rosalie Lines, Judy Phillips and Lorena Zendejas were absent.

Others present were: Improvement District Coordinator Rachel Stallworth and Community Planning Supervisor Nancy Ngai.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Cavanaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation by Supervisor Darren Simmons on the Kiwanis Park, the Kiwanis Club sponsorship, park purposes, challenges and needs.

Supervisor Simmons talked about the area he represents and how the Parks Commission got started again. He talked about other areas in the State that do not have a Parks Department – currently there are five. Although Greenlee County does not have a Parks Department, they are in the process of building a new county park to be maintained by Public Works. Voiced his concern that as the third largest county, Yuma County does not have a Parks Department and believes that is something the County should be able to do.

He discussed his affiliation with the Kiwanis Park in Tacna and the difficulties with maintaining the Park, and the cost of equipment replacement when there inadequate funds on hand. They are currently removing the slide since they don't currently have the funds to replace it.

He talked about the other parks within the County and believes that putting a small Parks Department together would help considerably with the repairs and maintenance and could possibly be overseen by our Public Works Department. He has heard from several people interested in seeing the Adair Park have their park/baseball field re-established with the backstop and grassy field, all in coordination with the Adair Ranges.

Supervisor Simmons discussed the park area located at 52nd Street and 14 1/2E by Las Barrancas. He had talked with Andy and Paula Capestro about that location, previously used as a walking park. He was told it was donated to the Kiwanis Club in the foothills. Since there is no more Kiwanis Club in the foothills, he has asked staff (Rachel Stallworth) to determined current ownership and see what we could do about acquiring

that property. He feels it would be an ideal location for a dog park, and would just need some grass and fencing.

Supervisor Simmons believes that if Greenlee County can establish a new park and have Public Works oversee it, then Yuma County should be able to put something together. He hopes to be able to sell the re-establishment of a parks department to the Board of Supervisors, on a smaller scale at first and have them under the auspices of our Public Works Department. He pointed out the difficulty of caring for a large park like the Gadsden Park, which is cared for by Louie Gradias.

He feels that if we can get a park established in the foothills by the library, starting off with some grassy areas and a ramada at first, we should be able to maintain it and expand on it with walking trails, etc. He maintains that Yuma is growing and families want more parks with places outside to enjoy. The Parks Commission is the first step and we will need to secure grants to establish, replace and repair things.

Commissioner Evans questioned how all of this would work as far as establishing a parks department, having organizations provide the things needed in the parks, and how it would be paid for. Supervisor Simmons explained that there are grants for that and would have to be pursued to pay for things such as ramadas and playground equipment, etc. He does not feel it would be difficult to get the park areas established with sprinkler systems, then seek the funding for the equipment through grants. Commissioner Evans asked about the insurance portion which is a stumbling block in finding a non-profit to pay for the liability insurance. Supervisor Simmons said he would have the county attorney's office look into the legalities of that more, as he understood in some locations they were able to just post it indicating you are using the park at your own risk. He said, however, that he would work with the attorney's to determine what they need to do, understanding that the insurance is always the biggest issue.

Commissioner Evans asked if Supervisor Simmons would be able to get a copy of Greenlee County's plan and how they were going about it. Supervisor Simmons said he would look into that.

Supervisor Simmons said he would like to work more with the Board to see what he can accomplish as far as getting a parks department established in the near future.

No legal action taken.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

No. 1: Approval of meeting minutes for October 9, 2019.

MOTION: (GALAVIZ/LINES) Approved as presented.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried 6-0, with Commissioners Elliot, Lines, Phillips and Zendejas absent.

No. 2: Discussion and possible action regarding the date and time for future Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meetings.

Chairman Cavanaugh opened discussion to consider a change for the date and time for future Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meetings. Commissioners were provided with a breakdown of the dates and times for consideration which were to be voted on by the Commissioners. The second Tuesday and second Wednesday of the month were very close. Commissioners had an open discussion and, **a)** voted to change the meeting date from the second Wednesday of each month to the second Tuesday of each month then: **b)** voted to keep the meeting time for the meetings at 5:30 pm for all future meetings.

MOTION: a) (GRADIAS/GALAVIZ); b) (GALAVIZ/ANAYA)

VOICE VOTE: Both Motions carried 6-0, with Commissioners Elliot, Lines, Phillips and Zendejas absent.

No. 3: Discussion and reports on individual commissioners visits to County parks with possible action to compile report with future recommendations to Board of Supervisors regarding the following:

- a) Report of observed park facility needs, prioritized, with recommendations to meet the needs in support of current park sponsors/non-profits;**
 - b) Consider and possibly recommend social media support for parks through County website;**
 - c) Identify and possible recommendations of revenue streams for parks repairs or up-grades.**
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- a) Commissioners discussed the various parks they were able to visit and the various needs they identified as needing upgrade or repair. Not all commissioners were able to visit all the parks, but based on varying priorities during discussion, staff asked that each commissioner please provide a written outline of their observations, concerns, recommendations and prioritized needs by the next advisory board meeting. It will be organized into a report for their review, based on their submission, and discussed again to determine what they would like submitted to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.
 - b) Commissioners would like to see a social media presence for parks through the County website. Chairman Cavanaugh asked if there was anyone that would be willing to take this on and determine what they need to do and would like to see on the website. Commissioner Anaya volunteered to head that up. Staff asked that they identify exactly what things they would like to see on social media through the county website and provide staff with a list at the next meeting.
 - c) Discussion among the commissioners addressed what the various potential revenue streams available are for park repairs, and grant availability for

equipment and up-grades. Commissioner Evans asked about how to go about starting a park with playground equipment, etc. Commissioner Galaviz addressed her questions in detail based on what the needs may be for the park being considered. Commissioner Evans requested clarification on their role within the commission. She questioned if they are supposed to come up with the ideas and recommendations with the understanding that the county cannot provide any financial support. Commissioner Galaviz confirmed that the commission is the entity to identify parks needs and recommendations and they are to be the voice back to the Board based on their observations. He explained that although there may not be available funding at this time, it's important to put a plan together that the Board can consider for the future. Once the plan is formalized, it makes it easier to move forward on something in the future. Sponsorships were discussed for potential income streams as companies display their banners for advertising. Staff clarified to the commission that the commission itself is not the fundraiser, but are asked to identify through partners what sources are available and the outside partners would be the actual fundraisers. Staff encouraged the commissioner to look toward getting a plan formalized before trying to determine how much money needs to be raised, then they can work on looking to how much money will be needed to bring their plan to fruition.

No legal action was taken. Items addressed will be calendared for further discussion at the next Advisory Board Meeting.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Commission members may direct staff to place matters on future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Adopted and accepted this 14th Day of January, 2020.

Barbara Cavanaugh - Chairman